



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - April 28, 2003

- ***In the West***, cool, showery weather is slowing crop growth and further delaying spring fieldwork across ***northern and central California*** and parts of the ***Intermountain region***. In contrast, warm, dry weather prevails in ***southern California*** and the ***Southwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, cool weather across ***Montana*** and the ***Dakotas*** is slowing the development of winter wheat and spring-sown small grains. Topsoil moisture remains mostly favorable on the ***northern and central Plains***, but lingering effects of multi-year precipitation deficits include subsoil moisture shortages and drought-stressed ranges and pastures. Meanwhile on the ***southern High Plains***, very warm weather and topsoil moisture shortages continue to stress winter wheat and emerging summer crops.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, beneficial showers are returning to portions of the ***middle Mississippi and lower Missouri Valleys***. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, mild, dry weather favors pre-planting fieldwork and initial summer crop planting, although long-term precipitation deficits remain a concern across the majority of the region.
- ***In the South***, warm, dry weather is promoting summer crop planting, emergence, and establishment, although pockets of unfavorable dryness are developing in areas primarily ***west of the Delta***.

Outlook: Early in the week, a high-pressure system will maintain dry, pleasant weather across the ***Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern States***, while a weak cold front may trigger occasional showers across the ***Corn Belt***. Meanwhile, showers and thunderstorms will become more numerous across the ***Plains***, as a storm system slowly approaches from the ***Rockies***. Farther west, cool, unsettled weather will persist across the ***Rockies and Pacific Coast States***, but the ***Southwest*** will remain dry. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for May 3-7 calls for above-normal precipitation across much of the Nation, although pockets of near- to below-normal precipitation are expected in parts of the ***Southeast, northern Plains, and Pacific Northwest***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast across the ***eastern half of the U.S.***, while cooler-than-normal weather is expected ***west of the Rockies***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)